

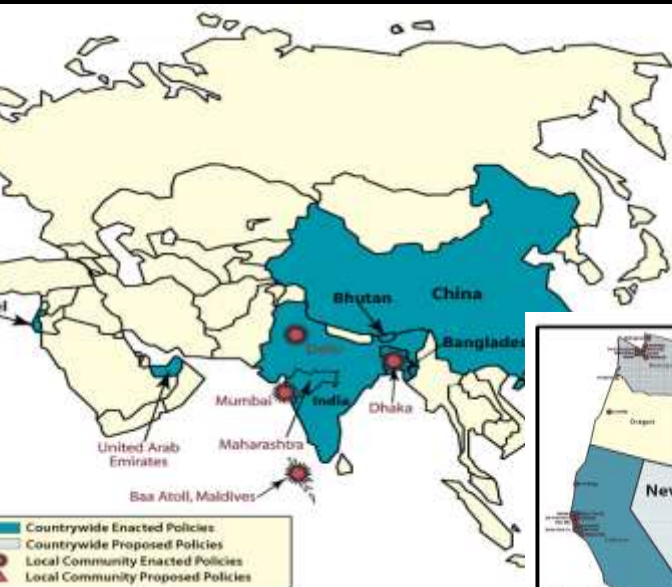
# San Mateo County Reusable Bag Ordinance

October 23, 2012



A large, colorful pile of plastic waste, including various bottles, containers, and debris, is displayed in a modern gallery space. The pile is composed of numerous small and large pieces of plastic, creating a dense and chaotic mound. The gallery has white walls, a polished floor, and track lighting on the ceiling. The text "15 Seconds Worth of Plastic" is overlaid on the image in a large, white, sans-serif font with a blue outline.

# 15 Seconds Worth of Plastic



# Regional Problem

- 20 Billion used each year in California
  - 386 Million in San Mateo County
  - 552 Million in Region
- Less than 8% are recycled
  - Landfill
  - Litter
  - Storm Drains
- Regional Stormwater Permits
- Not Free



# Regional Coordination Efforts

- Participating Cities in San Mateo & Santa Clara Counties
- Chambers of Commerce
- Business Associations
  - CA Grocers Association
  - CA Retailers Association, et al
- Farmers Market Managers
- San Mateo County Employers
  - E-Trade's Leadership

# A Regional Effect Needs A Regional Effort

San Mateo County	South San Francisco	Brisbane
		Millbrae
Belmont	Burlingame	Portola Valley
Colma	Redwood City	Daly City
San Bruno	East Palo Alto	San Carlos
Foster City	San Mateo	Half Moon Bay
Pacifica	Menlo Park	Woodside
Milpitas	Cupertino	Los Gatos
Los Altos	Campbell	Mountain View



# What is a “Program” DEIR?

This EIR is considered a Program DEIR under the CEQA Guidelines (Sections 15168 and 15180(b)):

- Prepared on a series of related actions (e.g., geographically) that can be characterized as one large project.
- Advantages: 1) Ensures consideration of cumulative impacts and 2) allows reduction in paperwork.

Used as the basis for determining whether a similar action would have any significant effect in a participating agency’s jurisdiction.

- The Program EIR does not preclude any requirement for individual participating cities to undergo further environmental review.



# Impact Analysis

## Impacts considered **beneficial**:

- Air Quality (reduced emissions from plastic bag production)
- Biological Resources (reduced impacts associated with litter)
- Hydrology/Water Quality (reduced impacts associated with litter)

## Impacts considered **less than significant without mitigation** (no mitigation measures required):

- Air Quality
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Utilities and Service Systems

Impacts associated with production, delivery, disposal of paper and reusable bags, washing of reusable bags.



# “Program” EIR & Ordinance Schedule

CEQA	
<i>Draft Program EIR</i>	
Planning Commission Informational Public Hearing	July 11, 2012
45-day Public Review & Comment Period	June 22, 2012- August 6, 2012
<i>Final Program EIR</i>	
10-day Public Review & Comment Period	August 31, 2012- September 10, 2012
Public Hearings	
Planning Commission Public Hearing for Consideration of the Final Program EIR and the Proposed Ordinance	September 12, 2012
<u>Board of Supervisor Public Hearing to certify Final Program EIR and Introduce Ordinance (1st reading)</u>	<u>October 23, 2012</u>

# Reusable Bag Ordinance Summary

- Bans distribution of plastic bags
- All retailers **except** restaurants and nonprofits
- Requires \$0.10 per paper or reusable bag (\$0.25 after 01/01/15)
- **Does Not** include protective bags for produce or meat, dry-cleaning and newspapers
- Defines a “reusable bag” (durability and washability)
- Stores may exempt CalFresh and WIC participants from the per bag charge



# Implementation

- Proposed Implementation Date **April 22, 2013**
- Cities Adopt Ordinance by Reference
- Cities Adopt the County's EIR Findings
- Outreach Effort
  - City Centric
  - Business Associations
  - Chambers of Commerce
  - Mailings and Toolkits to Retailers
  - Reusable Bag Giveaways



# Recommendation

Based on staff's report and presentation, Staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt a Resolution certifying the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (SCH2012042013) and adopting associated California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) findings of fact for the County of San Mateo Reusable Bag Ordinance.
2. Make the CEQA Findings of Fact listed in Attachment A.
3. Introduce an Ordinance amending the Ordinance Code to regulate the distribution of single-use carryout bags by retail establishments in unincorporated San Mateo County and waiver of reading the Ordinance in its entirety.



# Alternatives

Issue	Proposed Ordinance	<u>Alt 1</u> No Project	<u>Alt 2</u> Ban on Plastic Bags at all Retail Establishments	<u>Alt 3</u> Mandatory Charge of \$0.25 for Paper Bags	<u>Alt 4</u> Ban on Both Single-use Plastic and Paper Carryout Bags
Air Quality	=	-	= / -	+	+
Biological Resources	=	-	= / +	= / +	= / +
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	=	= / +	= / -	+	+
Hydrology/Water Quality	=	-	= / +	= / +	+
Utilities and Service Systems	=	+	= / -	= / +	= / +



# Impact Analysis

Program DEIR estimates that approximately **552 million plastic bags per year** are used in the Study Area

Program DEIR assumes that as a result of the Reusable Bag Ordinance:

- 95% of the volume of plastic bags would be replaced by recycled paper bags (30% of total) and reusable bags (65% of total)
  - **Plastic Bags = Reduced to approx. 27.5 million** (remaining 5%)
  - **Additional Recycled Paper Bags = approx. 166 million**
  - **Additional Reusable bags = approx. 7 million** (each used up to 52 – 125 times)